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Resources Agency of California
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I am writing on behalf of the Coastwalk Board of Directors to comment on the Draft Policy on Coastal Erosion. We support the recommendations of the report and suggest that they be strengthened and made the rule of law.

Coastwalk is especially concerned about seawall construction in regards to public access to the coastline, and for aesthetic reasons. There are many areas where it is almost impossible to use the beach or tidal area because a seawall has created a hazardous condition, with waves crashing directly on the wall and backwash scouring the beach of sand. Seawalls often harm the California Coastal Trail alignment.

It is apparent that the natural landscape is not only environmentally superior, but also has superior scenic value. Many seawalls are akin to an industrial landscape, replacing scenic bluffs and cliffs, dunes and sand spits.

We recommend the following:

- A study should be conducted to see where seawalls can be removed and structures moved to safe ground,
- Strong rules outlawing seawalls should be made law,
- Managed retreat should be the over riding policy,
- Subsidies for development in hazardous zones should be eliminated,
- New development should always be removed from hazardous conditions, and full public access to the coast should be included.

Sincerely,

Richard Nichols
Executive Director